WHAT IT IS....

MARCH 1979

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BLACK WOMEN ORGANIZED FOR ACTION
POST OFFICE BOX 15072, SAN FRANCISCO, CA. 94115

write on...and on!

ACTION is part of BWOA's name, and if we have the name, we should play the game! There are a number of issues at national, state and local levels where the voice of Black people should be heard---sometimes in support and sometimes in opposition.

This new feature, WRITE ON, will give you information about some of those issues. BWOA urges you to take pen in hand (or put phone to ear) and let the policymakers know where we stand and what we want them to do. Try the following on for size:

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President Carter's Budget Proposal: The President has announced a major effort to cut Federal spending; however, those "cuts" are going to hit "people" programs more heavily than other areas. In particular danger are CETA and Section 8/Public Housing programs. Social programs will be down nearly 5%, while military spending will be up nearly 4%. If you don't like those priorities, then let your representatives in Congress know. The First Budget Resolution will be on April 15, but budget committees are at work now and three Californians sit on the House Committee---Norman Mineta of San Jose; Leon Panetta of Monterey, and Clair Burgener of San Diego. These men should be hearing from Californians about the cuts. Write both Senators, Alan Cranston and S.I. Hayakawa, urging their support for social programs. Write the President and tell him how unhappy you are bout his priorities for the nation. YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE. WRITE ON!

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Another Voice:(Silent in S.F.?) KQED is apparently not among the public broadcasting stations which have bought the newly revamped Another Voice hosted by Chuck Stone of the Philadelphia Daily News (and one-time righthand aide to Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, Jr.). The program is the only nationally syndicated minority directed, produced and oriented attempt to address the concerns of Blacks, Hispanics, Asians and Native Americans. It used to air as Black Perspectives on the News, but in its new format, the scope of the program is much broader. It has also greatly increased the focus on women---as interviewers, guests and technicians. The program is underfunded ($414,000 annually) and that is par for the course! Word has it that 169 cities have purchased the program for airing---including Los Angeles, San Bernardino, San Diego and Sacramento, but our own sophisticated San Francisco with its multi-racial, multi-ethnic population has not seen fit to add Another Voice to its schedule. Maybe it's time (again) to ask "Which public does the PBS serve?" It might help to write (or call) KQED Program Manager Jonathan Rice, 500 - 8th Street, San Francisco, CA. 94103. Tell him how you feel about the decision not to purchase Another Voice---a national issues program from a minority perspective.

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Equal Rights Amendment: Do you have friends in any of the fifteen unratified states---have you written them to express your support for passage of the amendment? Have you made it clear to organizations to which you belong that you will not participate in conventions and meetings which are scheduled for these states---Nevada, Arizona, Utah, Georgia, Florida, North and South Carolina,Illinois, Virginia, Alabama, Mississippi,Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri and Oklahoma. They are on the DO NOT PATRONIZE list for active feminists!

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Constitutional Convention: Have you written to Presidential aspirant Jerry Brown telling him that his call for a constitutional convention is "for the birds"? The "Guv" has found himself a "sexy" issue and he seems to be willing to court supporters from any place (and viewpoint) to ride into the White House. How about sending him a letter or a telegram making it clear that you are not willing to risk a gathering of the Klan at such a convention---where it's pretty clear that more than balanced budgets would be under discussion.

* * *

These are just a few of the issues that are heating up in the nation and state, but we know there are many more. BWOA gets a lot of information about these things, but we need YOU to show strength. From now on, the Political Action Committee will be briefing some of those issues at the regular meeting and will bring stationery along to have YOU write that letter (the one you have been meaning to write). All those other people---the ones who are against what we are for---are writing.

IT'S YOUR TURN!

SOCIAL SECURITY REFORM

When the Social Security system was established in 1935 as part of the "New Deal" programs of FDR, the model for providing protection was the "typical" lifelong marriage in which women (at least non-minority women) were solely homemakers and men provided economic support. That model has been shattered by the increasing divorce rate and the fact that, in 1977, 47% of all married women were working outside the home.

Because of these changes in American society, Congress called for a major overhaul of the system and undertook a study to determine ways for eliminating "dependency" as a factor in entitlement and the inherent sex bias in the system.

That report, "Social Security and the Changing Roles of Men and Women", has been issued by HEW Secretary Joseph Califano, who has called for a national public debate on a number of options for revamping the entire premise of the system. In brief, the options are:

1. Earnings sharing: under which a couple's annual earnings (whether earned by one spuse or both) are divided equally between the marriage partners for the purpose of computing retirement benefits for each partner. In essence, this would provide a social security account to homemakers as well as to wage earners.

2. Double-decker benefits: under which each U.S. resident would receive a flat dollar amount of $122 at age 65 or upon disability, as a "Tier 1" benefit. In addition, workers in covered employment would receive "Tier 2" benefits equal to 30% of their average monthly earnings.

BWOA should become knowledeable about each of the proposed options so that our intelligent voices can be heard when Congress debates this basic issue. Watch for future issues of What It Is for an analysis of the options!

On ??? Leadership

Sometimes it is necessary for us to face harsh truths---and the time has come to do that with the Black "Leadership" Forum, to which some of us belong. To deserve the term "leader", a person should at least understand the principles of organization and the value of membership involvement.

The spectacle of the January meeting of the Black Leadership Forum suggests that our community needs an alternative group which is willing, and able, to deal with issues if we are not to become a poor joke in the political arena. From beginning to end, the meeting was a farce! Although the organization's bylaws clearly state that the annual meeting for the purpose of electing officers should be held in February, the executive committee (we guess that's who did it) set the election for January. When the "error" was pointed out and it was suggested that the group simply receive the nominating committee report and reschedule the meeting, as the bylaws required, for February, disaster descended. Neither the bylaws nor Roberts Rules of Order was heard from again during the meeting which voted first to suspend the bylaws (clearly illegal) and then to permit everyone in the room to vote (not very legal either, but entirely in keeping with the other actions). People cast ballots and left BEFORE the nominating committee's report was placed before the group and BEFORE the floor was opened to additional nominations (and there were some). They ran out of ballots (pre-printed with the names recommended by the nominating committee only), permitted people to reach into an open ballot box and change ballots and they never did get around to announcing what the procedure for voting would be.

The debate over all these actions would have been hilarious if it were not so sad. It is unthinkable that a group of Black leaders would confuse loudness with being right, but that happened numerous times.

It would be an excellent idea for the remaining members of the BLF to schedule an elementary course in parliamentary procedure for the next meeting, if there is anyone in the group who could give it! On second thought, how about a whole new group to get about the serious business of Black folk?

Huckleberry House, 1430 Masonic Ave., is a 24-hour crisis center for adolescents, offering temporary housing and other emergency services for youth, 12-17 years old. Any young person can call the 24-hour crisis line, 431-4376, or drop in to set up an interview. The facility is also looking for people who might become certified foster parents. A foster household will receive $300 per month. If you are interested, call Paul Gibson at 431-4376.

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A federal judge has upheld the right of the National Organization for Women to use a convention boycott as a tool against states that have not ratified the Equal Rights Admendment. He called the boycott "a legitimate political venture."

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Four women connected with the Autobiography Workshops at the Berkeley Women's Center are seeking short autobiographical stories for a book that will represent the diversity of the women's community. The theme of the book is loss. The stories should be one double-space typewritten page in length. Deadline is April 15. Send to Margit Stange, 1810 Stuart Street, Berkeley, California 94703.

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Three major insurance companies in California face lawsuits by the State because they have refused to reveal information about their hiring practices involving minorities and women. Alice Lytle, chief of the State Division of Fair Employment Practices, said that Attorney General George Deukmejian has filed peitions asking that Metropolitan Life Insurance, Allstate Insurance and Automobile Club Insurance of Southern California (AAA) be ordered to show why they have not submitted the information.

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A record number of women have won elective office in the last political year. Women state legislators now represent 10.2 percent of the membership.The number of women in the U.S. House of Representatives, however, dropped from 18 to 16. The number of women lieutenant governors went from three to six.

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Berkeley's Women's Center will hold a one day workshop on doing your own income tax. It will be held March 4 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Bring all financial records, forms and calculators, if you have them. Bring food to share.Call 849-4087 or 655-3054 for more information.

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National Institute of Education plans for this year include a program for research relevant to reducing barriers to women's educational equity. Attention will be drawn to racial, ethnic and socio-economic diversity. To receive the announcement of the grant proposals when they are issued, send a self-addressed mailing label to Social Processes/Women's Research Team, National Institute of Education, Washington, D.C. 20208.

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The S.F. Commission on the Status of Women is sponsoring a Bayview-Hunter's Point Job Finding Workshop, from 9:15 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 3 at the Neighborhood Facility Center, 100 Whitney Young Circle. For more info, call Jennifer Haskins 558-3653.

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The Southern Christian Leadership Conference/West, located at 3858 W. Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, is asking everyone to write President Carter and ask that he commute the sentence of the Rev. Ben Chavis of the Wilmington 10. Rev. Chavis is wasting life years away under a miscarriage of justice, while an unname heiress/bank robber goes free.

CALENDAR

Western Regional Conference of Women and Business: March 8,9,19 at the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles. For women who want to move up; change careers, start own business, re-enter working world. For further info: Call(213)741-2410. Registration deadline March 1.

Association of Black Correctional Workers: 7th Annual Conference" CRIME: OLD PROBLEMS, NEW SOLUTIONS." March 1to3rd. Holiday Inn Golden Gateway S.F. Contact: William Hayes:589-0759

10th National Conference on Women & Law March 29 to April 1. San Antonio Convention Center. Write: Women's Law Caucus, University of Texas School of Law. 2500 Red River, Austin, Texas 78705

Officers for Justice 11th Annual Banquet Sunday March 11 The Galleria 101 Kansas St. 6:30 Cocktails 8pm Buffet Dinner $15 donation per person. Disco Dance after.

Internat'l Working Women's Day Sunday March 11. 3pm to 5:30pm Queen Ada Hall 1390 Turk St. Free. Picketing of South African Consulate Thur.Mar 8 from 11am to 2pm 120 Montgomery Street.

Celebration of International Women's Day and "Year of the Child" Sun March 11 at 2pm. 1st Unitarian Chruch.SF.1187 Franklin St. Co-sponsered by several groups:Women's Internat'l League for Peace & Freedom, Amer Russian Institute.

Sat March 3 Planning mtg for Stop the Nuclean Arms Race 1563 Page St SF at The Urban School. 1 to 4pm.

Save the Date: Sat April 28th. All day workshop WOMEN & FINANCES co-sponsered by Co-op Credit Union & Contra Costa College. Free, Childcare too. Workshops on Credit, Investing, Different Financial Lifestyles. 9 to 4pm. To be held at Contra Costa College. More deatils in April newsletter. Mark the date now.

SOFT BALL TRYOUTS for Women. Sat & Sun March 3 & 4th from 10am to 4pm. San Jose Municipal Stadium. Call 364-6646 for info.

Benefit for SF Women's Center.March 15 at 8:30 PM. Donation $2.50 to $5.00.Prose & Poetry by Barbara Starkey. At Dovre Hall 3543 18th St. SFInfo: 431-1180

DAY IN THE PARK FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS: Sat March 10. 12 noon to 4pm. Golden Gate Park Bandshell.

6th Annual Women's Employment Options Conference '79. March 31. Long Beach Convention Center. Call 213-273-6633 for info.

The Mayor of S.F. Dianne Feinstein announces two public hearings on next year's city budget. Thur. March 1 from 7to 10pm at William L. Cobb School 2725 Calif. St. & Sat March 3rd 10am to 1pm at Everett Jr. High 450 Church. Info; Call 558-5974 & 558-2666.

GOOD READING TIP: "Everywoman's Guide to Time Management" by Donna Goldfein. Good, practical tips to budgeting, use of home & office work space, your car, your closets, your will, etc. Publisher Les FemmesPress.

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The Community Training and Development Project which sponsors consulting services and management workshops for non-profit organizations is holding the following workshops this month:

14- career planning
15- time management
16- bookkeeping and accounting
19- strategies for access
21- using volunteers effectively
22- evaluating job performance
23- effective writing skills
26- communication skills and social structure
27- how to make meetings work
28- creative problem-solving tools
29- organizational leadership skills
30- effective writing

For more information, callthe project director at 626-6220.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you are interested in any of the areas listed below, you are encouraged to apply to the University of California Riverside. Women and minority applicants are encouraged to apply. Minimum requirement to file is a B. degree and some Student Affairs experience.

1. educational opportunity program/ student affirmative action
2. special services (handicapped, vets)
3. career planning and placement
4. financial aids
5. international services
6. children center
7. counseling center
8. women's resource center
9. learning and study skills center
10. health service
11. campus activities
12. residence halls.

The 6th Annual Women's Employment Options Conference is being held March 31 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Long Beach Convention Center. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. The fee is $5. Representatives from more than 100 major companies and corporations will be present to receive your resume and discuss job opportunities. There will also be some very useful workshops.

Workshop subjects include: minority women in the labor market, careers in journalism and public relations, computer science and data processing, moving from the public to private sector, start your own business,etc. For more information, contact Career Planning Center, Inc., 1623 S. La Cienega Blvd., Los Angeles 90035.

Alveda King Beal, niece of Dr. Martin L. King Jr., has been elected to the Georgia State House of Representaives from the 28th District, a predominantly black downtown Atlanta area.

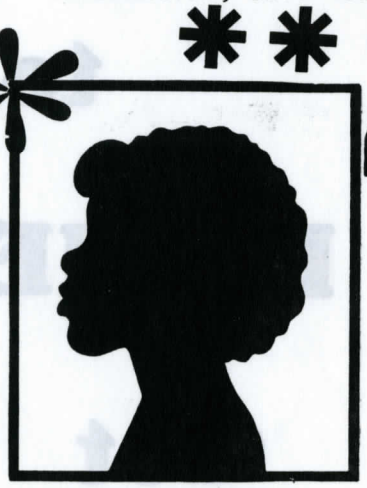
This month's newsletter has been brought to you through the creative coalition of

Aileen Hernandez
Patsy Fulcher
Flora Gilford
Peggy Cole
Roberta Palm -editor

Because of a well-publicized suit, the S.F. police force is actively recruiting women and minorities. The salary is $1,371(entrance) to $1,588 a month. Minimum qualifications are -

1. have a high school diploma or equivalent
2. be at least 20 years old
3. be a United States citizen
4. possess or be eligible for a California Driver's license, and have a good driving record
5. be in good health and physical condition
6. must be San Francisco resident at time of application

Interested persons should pick up and file applications at Room 553, Police Recruitment Office, Hall of Justice, 850 Bryant St. or City Hall, Room 151. The deadline is March 9. For more information, call 431-6980.



AGENDA

The next meeting of BWOA will be held on Wednesday, March 14, 1979 at the Western Addition YWCA, 1830 Sutter Street S.F.

6:30 Introductions
6:45 Committee Reports
7:00 Special Projects
We will be busy as bees

This meeting has been planned to be a pot luck by the coordinators. Bring your favorite dish and come on! See you there.

PLEASE BE PROMPT

BWOA

sends

LOVE

and best wishes

to

ELLIE SPIKES

Get well

soon!!